

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00652 01 OF 02 111846Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 TRSE-00 CU-02 IO-13 OMB-01 DHA-02 /083 W

-----111909Z 128941 /44

R 111430Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2251

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USUN NEW YORK 0534

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 0652

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, CSCE, SHUM, CZ

SUBJECT: CHARTER 77 ROUND-UP -- ACTIVISTS LESS ACTIVE

1. SUMMARY: WITH TWO LEADING SPOKESMEN APPARENTLY OUT  
OF ACTION, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, THE CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT  
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00652 01 OF 02 111846Z

APPEARS TO HAVE LOST SOME OF ITS STEAM THIS PAST WEEK.  
THE ANTI-CHARTER CAMPAIGN GOES ON, HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH IT  
HAS PARTLY BEEN SWALLOWED UP IN THE BROADER SOVIET-  
ORCHESTRATED RESPONSE TO WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS MOVES.  
END SUMMARY.

2. CONDITION OF ACTIVIST LEADERS: ON THE DAY AFTER

HIS MEETING WITH NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, CHARTER 77 SPOKESMAN JAN PATOCKA WAS TAKEN BY POLICE FOR 10 HOURS OF QUESTIONING. FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE, HIS DOCTOR DECIDED PATOCKA REQUIRED HOSPITALIZATION, WHICH AT THAT TIME WE UNDERSTOOD TO BE ONLY PRECAUTIONARY, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT HIS FAMILY SAID HE FELT "FAINT." PATOCKA IS APPARENTLY STILL IN THE HOSPITAL. HE REPORTEDLY PUT OUT A STATEMENT MARCH 8 ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH VAN DER STOEL AND HAS SAID HE PLANS TO RESUME CHARTER ACTIVITY AS SOON AS HE CAN LEAVE THE HOSPITAL. POLICE ARE BLOCKING WOULD-BE FOREIGN VISITORS TO THE OTHER CHARTER SPOKESMAN, HIRI HAJEK, AND MAY ACTUALLY HAVE HIM UNDER HOUSE ARREST. WITH THESE TWO SPARK PLUGS OF THE MOVEMENT OUT OF ACTION, VISIBLE CHARTER ACTIVITY HAS SUBSIDED.

3. KOHOUT LETTER: THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN THE LAST WEEK BY A CHARTER SIGNER WAS BY PAVEL KOHOUT, WHO MARCH 3 CAME TO THE EMBASSY TO HAND US A LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER. WE HAVE NOTED FROM THE MARCH 7 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE THAT THE WASHINGTON PRESS HAS LEARNED OF THE LETTER'S EXISTENCE. ITS EXISTENCE WAS ALSO NOTED ON CZECH TV MARCH 9.

4. REGIME ACTIVITY: CHARTER SUPPORTERS MAY HAVE BEEN SILENT THIS WEEK BUT PRESIDENT HUSAK AND THE PROPAGANDA MILLS HAVE NOT. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, HUSAK MADE A RESERVED STATEMENT TREATING THE DISSIDENTS AS INCONSEQUENTIAL IN A SPEECH MARCH 8 MARKING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00652 01 OF 02 111846Z

DAY. A RUDE PRAVO EDITORIAL MARCH 10 EMPHASIZED THAT DISSIDENTS AND THEIR FOREIGN SUPPORTERS REPRESENT NO DANGER TO CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST SOCIETY. THE MEDIA HAVE BEEN CONTINUING THEIR POTSHOTS AT HAVEL, HAJEK, PATOCKA AND MLYNAR. THE MAJOR MEDIA EFFORT, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED ON FOLLOWING THE SOVIET LEAD IN A GENERAL ATTACK ON WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM, LINKING IT WITH ALLEGED ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN "INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WAS A FAVORITE TARGET FOR HYSTERICAL ACCUSATIONS OF UNPRECEDENTED INTERFERENCE IN CZECHOSLOVAK AFFAIRS AS A RESULT OF HIS MEETING MARCH 3 WITH JAN PATOCKA. THE U.S. HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN INCONTESTABLY THE PRIMARY TARGET FOR ATTACKS AS U.S. LEADERS CONTINUE TO ARTICULATE OUR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE.

5. ESPIONAGE ACCUSATION: POSSIBLY PRESAGING THE ACTUAL CHARGES TO BE MADE AGAINST VACLAV HAVEL, WHO IS STILL IN

INVESTIGATIVE DETENTION ALONG WITH THREE OTHER DISSIDENTS ARRESTED AT THE SAME TIME, WAS A MARCH 9 RADIO BROADCAST ABOUT HIS PAST. IT ACCUSED HIM OF HAVING FOR YEARS MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH ANTI-COMMUNIST EMIGRES INCLUDING "THE WELL-KNOWN CIA AGENT PAVEL TIGRID." IT ALSO ACCUSED HIM OF RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE FUNDS OF US AND FRG ESPIONAGE AGENCIES.

6. MOVES AGAINST SUPPORTERS: THE TWO CHARTER SUPPORTERS ARRESTED IN NORTHERN BOHEMIA (PRAGUE 509 AND 586) ARE PRESUMABLY STILL IN JAIL. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ALL OF THE FIRST LIST OF CHARTER SIGNERS ARE BEING CALLED IN TO THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO BE WARNED THAT THEY HAVE COMMITTED AN ILLEGAL ACT.

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00652 02 OF 02 111822Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRAGUE 0652

7. BUSINESS AS USUAL: THIS CONTINUES TO BE THE IMAGE FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK WISHES TO PROJECT IN OFFICIAL DEALINGS WITH THE WEST. IN ADDITION TO GOING THROUGH WITH THE VAN DER STOEL VISIT, CHNOUPEK ALSO APPEARED WITH TWO DEPUTIES AT THE MARCH 3 FORMAL OPENING OF THE NEW FRG RESIDENCE/CHANCERY. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER  
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00652 02 OF 02 111822Z

SPACIL VISITED PARIS MARCH 7-8 AND IS SEEKING A CANADIAN INVITATION FOR MAAY. AND FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL IS HAVING A BURST OF GENEROSITY IN COMING THROUGH WITH COURTESY CALLS REQUESTED BY THE AMBASSADOR MONTHS AGO.

8. RUMOR OF CHANGE: ONE OF OUR FREQUENT SOURCES WITH A MEDIOCRE BATTING AVERAGE, THE CZECH AP STRINGER, IS PUSHING THE IDEA THAT HANDLING OF CHARTER 77 HAS BROUGHT ON A GROWING CRISIS WHICH WILL ENABLE THE HARD-LINERS TO OUST THE MODERATE HUSAK, "NOT NOW BUT SOON." SHE HAS NOT INDICATED THAT SHE HAS ANY OTHER SOURCE FOR THIS THAN HER INTUITION, BUT IT IS REMINISCENT OF RECENT REMARKS BY TOP FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO THE EFFECT THAT IF THE WEST PUSHES TOO HARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IT WILL DRIVE THE REGIME BACK TO TACTICS OF THE 1950S. COMMENT: OUR VIEW IS THAT MISCOW IS PROBABLY SATISFIED THAT HUSAK'S COLLEGIAL LEADERSHIP IS DOING AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED IN CONTAINING THE CHARTER 77 GROUP AT HOME AND COUNTER-ATTACKING AGAINST THE RECENT WAVE OF CRITICISM FROM ABROAD. WE THINK A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP HERE WOULD MORE LIKELY COME AFTER A RESHUFFLE IN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, WHICH AFTER ALL, BROUGHT THE CURRENT CZECHOSLOVAK REGIME TO POWER AFTER THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF 1968.

9. OBSTRUCTIONISM: RUDE PRAVO HAS ADMITTED THAT AN EFFROT IS BEING MADE TO GET KOHOUT OUT OF HIS APARTMENT IN A CURIOUSLY DETAILED ARTICLE WHICH ACCUSES HIM OF HARMING THE GENERAL WELFARE BY REFUSING TO LEAVE HIS TWO ROOM APARTMENT ON HISTORIC HRADCANY SQUARE TO MOVE INTO A THREE ROOM FLAT BEING OFFERED HIM. HIS REFUSAL IS ALLEGEDLY DELAYING EXECUTION OF A PLAN TO CONVERT ALL DWELLINGS AROUND THE SQUARE INTO A NATIONAL HISTORICAL PRESERVE. SUCH A PLAN FOR CREATION OF A PRESERVE IN THE LONG TERM DOES EXIST AND THE SCHWARZENBERG PALACE, IN WHICH KOHOUT LIVES, IS PART OF IT. BUT BEFORE THE PALACE BECOMES A PUBLIC MUSEUM, A SATISFACTORY NEW HOME MUST ALSO BE FOUND  
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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00652 02 OF 02 111822Z

FOR THE SWISS CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE LOCATED THERE.

10. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT IS GREATLY WEAKENED BY THE AT LEAST TEMPORARY SILENCING OF ITS KEY SPOKESMEN. A FAIRLY SPECTACULAR EVENT MAY BE NEEDED TO BLOW NEW LIFE INTO IT. PUBLICATION IN THE WEST OF THE YUGOSLAV PETITION OF SUPPORT (BELGRADE 1441) WILL BE HELPFUL, BUT MORE VISIBLE ACTION INSIDE CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL LEADERS APPEAR TO BE REQUIRED.

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## Message Attributes

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